

# FOREST MANAGEMENT

## At a Glance

Number of forestland owners in Kentucky... 306,900

Acres of private forestland in Kentucky... 11.4 million

Percent of forestland owned by private landowners... 93%

Average woodland tract... 30.4 acres

Percent of private forestland with forest plans... 16%

## Indicator 8. Forest Stewardship and Management on Private Woodlands

**Background** Many experts agree that managing Kentucky's forests in a sustainable manner and building a diverse forest industry will require a strong program of landowner assistance and education.

There are more than 306,900 private forestland owners in Kentucky. These landowners own about 93 percent of the 12.7 million acres of forestland in the state.<sup>1</sup> The average woodland tract is 30.4 acres. Currently, the state employs 40 field foresters—that amounts to 7,673 landowners for every state forester.

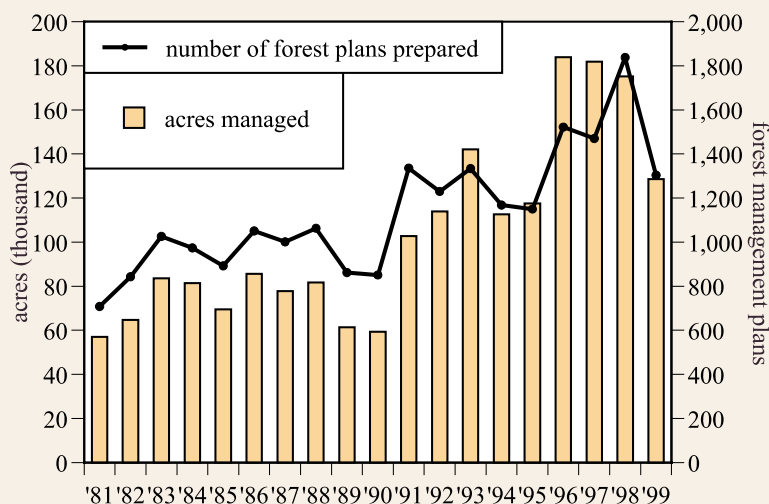
**Goal** Promote the sustainability of Kentucky's forest ecosystems.

**Progress** It is difficult to determine the level of forest management in Kentucky given the fact that there are so many landowners and acres of private forestland in the state. However, one indicator which can be used to track forest stewardship and management is the number of forest plans prepared by the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The preparation of forest plans is one of the most requested services by landowners. Between 1981 and 1999, the Kentucky Division of Forestry and its cooperators worked with landowners to prepare 21,623 forest plans covering 1.94 million acres of forestland. This represents 16 percent of the 11.4 million acres of private forestland in the state.

Other services requested by landowners through the state's Forest Stewardship Program include tree planting, timber marking and improving a forest stand. However, the reduction in federal funding of the Forest Stewardship Incentive Program, which finances up to 50 percent of landowner costs to manage their forestland, has impaired the state's ability to promote these types of practices. This federal program was not funded in 1999 or 2000. Kentucky continues to operate the cost-share program with money recovered from defaulted cost-share practices. Speculation is that there may be a new forestry cost-share program proposed in the national 2002 Farm Bill. The Kentucky Forest Conservation Act, passed in 1998, included a state Forest Stewardship Incentives Fund to assist in funding a cost-share program for landowners. However, funding has not yet been provided by the General Assembly to implement the program.

Most landowners requesting assistance from the Division of Forestry cite good forest

## Measure 1. Forest Plans Prepared for Private Woodlands in Kentucky



# NATURAL RESOURCES

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

management as their top priority (75 percent), followed by wildlife management (23 percent). The Kentucky Division of Forestry is now in the process of developing a plan to improve its outreach efforts to educate landowners about forest management practices and programs. The Kentucky Division of Forestry has contracted with a marketing firm to conduct a survey of forest landowners to determine their attitudes and motivations about forest stewardship. An outreach plan will be developed based on the survey findings.

### Footnotes

1. Forestland as estimated by the U.S. Forest Service in *Private Forestland Owners of the U.S., 1994*.

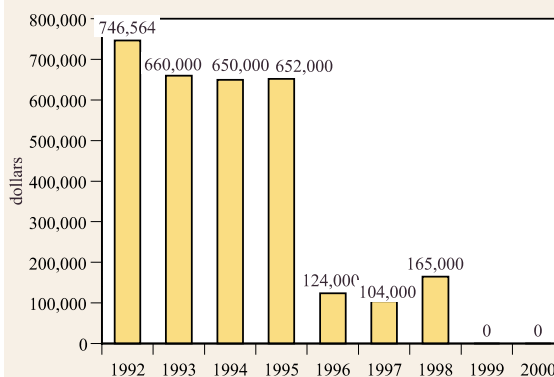
### Measures - notes and sources

**Measure 1.** Includes Forest Management Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans prepared by the Ky. Division of Forestry, Ky. Forestry Industry and Ky. Association of Consulting Foresters (KACF). Data not available from KACF for the years 1994-1997. Source: Ky. Division of Forestry.

**Measure 2.** Source: Ky. Division of Forestry.

**Measure 3.** Based on 453 landowner requests for assistance to the Ky. Division of Forestry in 2000. Other includes site preparation for natural regeneration and riparian area improvement. Source: Ky. Division of Forestry.

**Measure 2. Funding of Federal Forest Stewardship Incentive Programs in Kentucky**



**Measure 3. Forest Practice Requests in Kentucky**

